



**General Assembly
Security Council**

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**General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda item 13
The situation in the Middle East**

**Security Council
Sixty-first year**

**Identical letters dated 11 December 2006 from the Chargé
d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the
President of the Security Council**

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you hereinafter a statistical summary of Israeli violations committed from 1 to 7 December 2006 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 13, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Caroline **Ziade**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



**Annex to the identical letters dated 11 December 2006 from the
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the
President of the Security Council**

**Israeli violations, acts of aggression and other activities carried out from 1 to
7 December 2006**

Air violations

Between 0800 and 0922 hours on 1 December 2006 an Israeli enemy warplane flew at extremely high altitude over Tebnine and Jabal Maroun (north-west of Borj Qalaouay), thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 0805 and 1105 hours on the same day, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Tyre and circling over the South region, then left over Al-Naqoura.

Between 1054 and 1405 hours on the same day, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Al-Bayada and circling over the South region, then left over Al-Naqoura.

Between 1405 and 1705 hours on the same day, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Aalma al-Chaab and circling over the South region, then left over the sea off Al-Naqoura.

Between 1015 and 1645 hours on 3 December 2006, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the occupied Shab'a Farms, heading in the direction of the Bekaa and circling over the Riyaq area, then left over Kfar Chouba.

Between 0940 and 1320 hours on 4 December 2006 an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Tyre and circling over the South region, then left over Aalma al-Chaab.

Between 2010 and 2235 hours on the same day, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Tyre and circling over the South region, then left over Aalma al-Chaab.

At 2305 hours on the same day, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Tyre and circling over the South region, then left over Al-Naqoura at 0200 hours on 5 December 2006.

Between 0700 and 1400 hours on 5 December 2006 an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Aalma al-Chaab heading north and circling over Riyaq and the South.

Between 0720 and 1015 hours on the same day, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Aalma al-Chaab heading north and circling over the southern regions, whereupon it left over Al-Naqoura.

Between 0904 and 1247 hours on 6 December 2006, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Tyre heading east and circling over the southern regions, after which it departed over Aalma al-Chaab.

Between 0910 and 1000 hours on 7 December 2006, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Blida region, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

At various intervals between 1100 and 1310 hours on the same day, Israeli enemy military aircraft overflew the regions of Bent Jbail, Tebnine and Al-Naqoura, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1600 and 1850 hours on the same day, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Al-Naqoura and circling over the South region, then left over Al-Naqoura.

Between 1615 and 1920 hours on the same day, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Tyre and circling over the South region, then left over Al-Naqoura.

Sea violations

None.

Other Israeli activities

At 0920 hours on 1 December 2006, in the open sea off Ra's Al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy gunboat fired a number of rounds of medium-weapons fire over occupied Palestinian territorial waters.

At 0959 hours on 3 December 2006, a bulldozer, a concrete mixer and two pick-up trucks belonging to the Israeli enemy were observed performing fortification work at their position at Dahr al-Jamal (opposite the Lebanese town of Ramiye) within occupied Palestinian territory, accompanied by an Israeli Hummer vehicle.

At 1015 hours on the same day, an explosion was heard within occupied Palestinian territory opposite Ra's Al-Naqurah. The reasons for it were not known.

At 1115 hours on 4 December 2006, an explosion was heard within occupied Palestinian territory opposite Ra's Al-Naqurah. The reasons for it were not known.

At 1720 hours on the same day, an Israeli enemy warplane flew at high altitude over the occupied Palestinian territory opposite the town of Aaita al-Chaab, releasing hot-air balloons.

At 1014 on 6 December 2006, Israeli enemy forces strafed the area around their position within occupied Palestinian territory (opposite Labboune) with medium-weapons fire.



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The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

**Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their
implications for international peace, security and
development**

**Letter dated 11 December 2006 from the Permanent Representative
of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the so-called "constitutional referendum" of the illegal military regime in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were distributed as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 17 and 27, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 11 December 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

The illegal military regime established by the Republic of Armenia in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan intends, according to the reports circulated by the Armenian media, to hold a so-called "constitutional referendum" on 10 December 2006.

This act violates the Constitution of Azerbaijan, as well as relevant norms and principles of international law, and interferes with an ongoing peace process. The so-called "referendum" and its results shall have no legal effect and shall not mislead the international community, which is well aware of the occupation and appalling ethnic cleansing carried out by the Armenian armed forces against Azerbaijani population in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Any constitutional document envisaging a self-rule for the population of the Nagorno-Karabakh region can only be elaborated through a legal, democratic and peaceful process with a full, equal and direct participation of the entire population of the region consisting of the Armenian and Azerbaijani communities.

Azerbaijan shall never accept such illegal acts of the Armenian side, which are based on notorious practice of fait accompli and fully contradict the ongoing efforts to bring durable peace and stability to the region.

Baku, 2 December 2006



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**Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their
implications for international peace, security and
development**

**Letter dated 11 December 2006 from the Permanent
Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the address by Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and the statement on Nagorno-Karabakh by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Chairman-in-Office made at the 14th meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, held in Brussels on 5 December 2006 (see annexes I and II).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annexes were distributed as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under items 17 and 27, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Agshin Mehdiyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex I to the letter dated 11 December 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

**Address by Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan
14th meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
Brussels, 5 December 2006**

First, I would like to join other speakers in extending appreciation to Minister Karel de Gucht for the work done by the Belgian OSCE Chairmanship throughout this year. I am also pleased to welcome my Spanish colleague, Minister Miguel Ángel Moratinos, as the incoming Chairman-in-Office and wish him every success in fulfilling this important and responsible task.

We believe that the key purpose of reforms within our Organization is to strengthen its effectiveness in solving the most urgent problems of the participating States. Failure to implement its own decisions seriously undermines credibility of the OSCE in the eyes of its members and affects negatively its stance in the global arena.

Regrettably, this year too was marked by a number of appalling incidents related to discrimination, racism, xenophobia, hate speech and other manifestations of intolerance, particularly against Muslims, in some of the participating States. Such negative phenomena in the OSCE area violate human rights and fuel tensions globally. As the Chairman of the Ministerial Council of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Azerbaijan calls on the OSCE participating States to undertake concrete measures to combat this phenomena through the promotion of tolerance and overcoming of ignorance about Islam.

In this regard we support educational institutions for learning and teaching of Islam, its principles and philosophy, as one of the efficient instruments in fighting Islamophobia, particularly in Europe, and promoting mutual understanding and respect between various confessions.

To provide our own input to this important process, in 2007 we plan to host in Baku under the OIC aegis an international conference on the role of mass media in developing tolerance and mutual understanding. We invite the relevant OSCE structures as well as OSCE participating States to actively contribute to this event.

The outcomes of the meetings on economic and environmental dimension, held in Dushanbe, Vienna, Baku and Prague, demonstrated strong interest of participating States to transport-related issues. Azerbaijan is contributing to the development of transport networks throughout the OSCE area, actively participating in the activities of OSCE, GUAM and other bodies, and currently implementing joint large-scale projects with our neighbours and partners – Georgia and Turkey. At the same time,

topics of the next Economic and Environmental Forum, namely land degradation, soil contamination and water management, are of direct interest for Azerbaijan. We face many problems in this field, especially in the conflict zone.

We view the UN General Assembly resolution-sponsored OSCE-led Environmental Assessment Mission to the fire-affected territories of Azerbaijan as a good example of rapid and effective practical reaction to an urgent and complex problem faced by a participating State. We request the Chairman-in-Office to submit the Mission's Report to the UN General Assembly and its Member-States, and call on the organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to launch a joint process of preparation for a long-term Environmental Operation in the fire-affected lands as it is envisaged by the UNGA resolution.

To my deep regret, I still cannot extend the same level of enthusiasm to the whole process of settlement of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Despite increased activity demonstrated throughout this year by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmen, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and the parties involved we have not yet achieved the irreversible solution.

There is no alternative to finding solution in the framework of territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. At the appropriate stage of the settlement process it will be possible to discuss this issue by the whole population of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. Proceeding from the standards of democracy, rule of law and human rights, we believe that process of definition of a status shall take place on an equal basis, with direct and full participation of entire population of the region, which are both Armenian and Azerbaijani communities.

Therefore, Azerbaijani population should return in safety and dignity to their places of origin in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. This will be followed by opening of the communications for the mutual use by both sides in two directions, restoration of inter-communal relations and normal life in the region, cooperation between two communities in the humanitarian sphere, implementation of the special programs on education and tolerance, establishment more trust between people and nations.

To reach that point it is necessary to ensure complete withdrawal of Armenian troops from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The territories cannot be held as hostages, this will be counterproductive to the settlement process and further aggravate the situation. There is a better way to guarantee security of population and irreversibility of settlement than delaying the withdrawals, which is letting population of both communities inside the region to engage in constructive cooperation, guaranteed by a special Interim Arrangement and supported by the Governments of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Unfortunately, the sincerity of Armenian negotiators is questioned by such clear provocations as a declared intention of Armenian separatists to hold a so-called "*constitutional referendum*" in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh. This is yet another

unconstructive step taken by Armenian side in its attempt to consolidate and camouflage the results of its illegal activities. Azerbaijan shall never accept such illegal acts of the Armenian side, which are based on notorious practice of fait accompli and fully contradict the ongoing efforts to bring durable peace and stability to the region.

In conclusion, please allow me to say that we particularly appreciate active personal involvement of distinguished Minister De Gucht in the conflict settlement processes in the South Caucasus and shall be ready to welcome the same level of engagement of distinguished Mr. Moratinos as the next Chairman-in-Office.

And finally, I would like to reiterate our support to Kazakhstan's bid to assume the OSCE Chairmanship in 2009 and hope for a positive decision on this issue. Such step, in our belief, will strengthen the sense of responsibility and ownership of our Organization among the states east of Vienna, and will serve as recognition of their contribution to its activities.

Annex II to the letter dated 11 December 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

**Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Brussels 2006**

Statement on Nagorno-Karabakh

We are encouraged that negotiations in 2006, facilitated by the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group and supported by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, have brought the sides closer to agreement on the basic principles for the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

We welcome the support of the leaders of the G8 to these efforts, expressed at the G8 Summit in St. Petersburg in July.

We urge the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan to redouble their efforts in the coming year to finalize these basic principles as soon as possible.

We call on the sides, with the assistance of the international community, to extend cooperation to conduct an environmental operation to suppress the fires in the affected territories and to overcome their detrimental consequences. These measures can constitute significant steps towards restoring confidence between the sides. The OSCE is available to assist.

We also express our continuing support for the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and his mission to the region, and particularly for their efficient assistance to the Environmental Assessment Mission and for their ongoing monitoring of the ceasefire. We regret that incidents along the front lines continue occasionally to result in loss of life and call on both sides to adhere strictly to the ceasefire.



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**Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their
implications for international peace, security and
development**

**Letter dated 11 December 2006 from the Permanent
Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to draw your attention to the reaction of the international community to the so-called "constitutional referendum" held on 10 December 2006 in the occupied Nagorny-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan (see annexes I-V).

Such respected organizations as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Council of Europe and the European Union specifically underlined that the "referendum" would not be recognized and could not have any legal validity.

The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs emphasized that no member of the international community — including the Co-Chair countries — recognized the so-called "Nagorno-Karabakh Republic" as an independent state.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia considered the "constitutional referendum" illegitimate and did not recognize its results.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annexes were distributed as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 17 and 27, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Agshin Mehdiyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



**Annex I to the letter dated 11 December 2006 from the
Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Press release

**OSCE Chairman concerned over constitutional referendum
in Nagorno-Karabakh**

BRUSSELS, 11 December 2006 - The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Belgian Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht, said today that the OSCE will not recognize the referendum on a draft constitution held in Nagorno-Karabakh on Sunday.

"Such a referendum is counter-productive to the ongoing conflict settlement process, which has recently shown visible progress, as acknowledged by the parties," said Minister De Gucht.

Referring to a statement on Nagorno-Karabakh made at last week's 14th OSCE Ministerial Council in Brussels, he said: "We do not welcome a move that could jeopardize progress made at this promising juncture."

He also referred to today's statement by the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, saying: "A reason not to recognize this referendum is that no member of the international community recognizes the so-called Nagorno-Karabach republic as an independent state."

The OSCE Minsk Group is co-chaired by France, Russia and the United States.

**Annex II to the letter dated 11 December 2006 from the
Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Press release — 771 (2006)

**Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis on
the voting in Nagorno-Karabakh**

Strasbourg, 09.12.2006: This Sunday's vote organised by the 'de facto' authorities of Nagorno-Karabakh cannot have any legal validity. It will not be recognised by the international community and is therefore of no consequence.

A lasting solution for Nagorno-Karabakh can only come out of the political process facilitated by the Minsk Group. Any future solution must respect human rights, and if it is submitted to popular consultation, the vote must be free and fair and open to everyone.

The main responsibility for the settlement is with the political leadership of Armenia and Azerbaijan and especially President Kocharian and President Aliyev. This is one of the accession commitments of both Armenia and Azerbaijan to the Council of Europe.

**Annex III to the letter dated 11 December 2006 from the
Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the
European Union on the "constitutional referendum"
in Nagorno Karabakh on 10 December 2006**

**Press release 521/2006
11 December, 2006**

The European Union is aware that a "constitutional referendum" has taken place in Nagorno Karabakh on 10 December 2006. The EU recalls that it does not recognize the independence of Nagorno Karabakh. It recognizes neither the "referendum" nor its outcome.

The EU reiterates its firm support to the OSCE Minsk Group and its Co-Chairmen, and their efforts towards a settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. The EU considers that conducting such a "referendum", thus pre-empting the outcome of the ongoing negotiations, did not contribute to constructive efforts at peaceful conflict resolution. It calls on all parties to the conflict to intensify their efforts to find a negotiated solution to the conflict.

The Accessing Countries Bulgaria and Romania, the Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this declaration.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

**Annex IV to the letter dated 11 December 2006 from the
Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Statement of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs on the
December 10 referendum in Nagorno-Karabakh**

The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs took note that the authorities of Nagorno-Karabakh held a referendum on December 10 on a draft "constitution" of the so-called "Nagorno-Karabakh Republic," which no member of the international community – including the Co-Chair countries – recognizes as an independent state. The Co-Chairs do not believe that such a referendum will contribute to a negotiated settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Any future legal status of Nagorno-Karabakh should be determined without the threat or use of force and only as the result of political negotiations between all parties in the framework of the Minsk Process. Conducting such a referendum now, thus preempting the final legal status of Nagorno-Karabakh, rather than forging a compromise is particularly unhelpful at a moment when the OSCE Minsk Group-mediated negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan appear to be on a constructive path. The Co-Chairs expect that the results of this referendum, which are not internationally recognized, will have no negative effect on emerging prospects for an agreement between the sides on basic principles for the settlement of the conflict.

**Annex V to the letter dated 11 December 2006 from the
Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: Russian]

**The Ministry of Foreign Affairs does not recognize the
results of the so-called "constitutional referendum"
held in Nagorny Karabakh**

The Ministry considers that the "referendum" on the draft constitution held on 10 December 2006 in Nagorny Karabakh has no legitimacy and runs counter to the rules of international law. Latvia does not recognize the results of this "constitutional referendum".

The Ministry once again affirms its support for efforts by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Minsk Group and stresses the need to find ways of reaching a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Nagorny Karabakh. The Ministry is of the view that the conflict in Nagorny Karabakh can only be settled on the basis of the universally accepted rules and principles of international law, including the sovereignty of States and territorial integrity.

Latvia points out that the organization of this "referendum" is not conducive to finding a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Nagorny Karabakh.

11 December 2006

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 8 December 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, I have the honour to convey to you, in your capacity as President of the Security Council, the concerns of the Movement on the intention expressed by a permanent member of the Council to present a draft resolution on Myanmar.

The Non-Aligned Movement does not consider that the situation in Myanmar constitutes a threat to international peace and security, and opposes attempts by a permanent member of the Council to categorize Myanmar as such. Furthermore, countries neighbouring Myanmar that are members of the Non-Aligned Movement have stated that the domestic situation in Myanmar does not constitute a threat to regional peace and stability. Therefore, it is the position of the Movement that the situation in Myanmar should not be on the agenda of the Security Council.

At the 14th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, recently held in Havana, the Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement called upon the Security Council to uphold the primacy of and respect for the Charter in connection with its functions and powers and stressed once again "that the decision by the Security Council to initiate formal or informal discussions on the situation in any Member State of the United Nations or any issue that does not constitute a threat to international peace and security is contrary to Article 24 of the Charter".

In this regard, the Movement further stresses once again the need for the Council to uphold the primacy of and full respect for the Charter in carrying out its duties and responsibilities.

The principled positions of the Movement on this issue have been transmitted in a timely fashion to the Presidents of the Security Council for the months of February, July, September and October 2006 through letters from the Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement in New York, dated 10 February 2006, 20 February 2006, 10 July 2006, 29 September 2006 and 11 October 2006 respectively.



I would like to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rodrigo **Malmierca Díaz**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cuba
Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau
of the Non-Aligned Movement



Security Council

Distr.: General
28 December 2006

Original: English

**Letter dated 18 December 2006 from the Chairman of
the Security Council Committee established pursuant
to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has received the attached fifth report of the Sudan submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001) (see annex). I would be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ellen Margrethe Løj
Chairman

Security Council Committee established pursuant to
resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism



Annex

Letter dated 18 December 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee

I have the honour to enclose herewith the fifth report of the Government of the Sudan submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) (see enclosure).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its enclosure circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdalmahmood **Abdalhaleem**
Permanent Representative

Enclosure

[Original: Arabic]

In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

**Efforts of the Sudan to combat terrorism during the period
from June 2005 to October 2006****1. Introduction**

The Sudan continued its efforts in the sphere of counter-terrorism during this period. It was an active member of all the international and regional organizations, participating in and committed to the resolutions on counter-terrorism, and hosted a visit by the President of the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) Capacity Building Programme against Terrorism (ICPAT). Moreover, during this significant period the Sudan also hosted and chaired the second East African Regional Counter-Terrorism Conference.

2. Security and stability

(a) The Ministry of the Interior inaugurated a new system for the registration of civilians throughout the country, in cooperation with a specialized company, using electronic networks for the purpose of maintaining a record of all Sudanese citizens.

(b) The General Directorate of Passports intensified its campaign against foreigners contravening migration laws. In this regard, one of the American journalists who entered the Sudan without obtaining entry visas was arrested, as was the Slovakian consultant. They came before the court and were tried. The President of the Republic issued a pardon for them.

(c) The Ministry of the Interior continued to update the lists of banned individuals through the General Directorate of Passports.

(d) The anti-smuggling unit continued to monitor the borders in order to control infiltration by foreigners into the Sudan. The considerable efforts expended in this regard have led to the arrest of a number of foreigners from a neighbouring country on their way to Libya overland.

(e) The Ministry of the Interior also participated in demarcation of the borders between the Sudan and Ethiopia.

(f) Because of the current economic circumstances of the country, efforts continued to find funding for the new, costly passport. The Ministry of the Interior is seeking external funding for printing the new passport.

(g) In the context of Arab cooperation in the sphere of extradition and in implementation of the Riyadh Convention on Judicial Cooperation, the Sudan has extradited a number of criminals to their countries, for criminal offences.

(h) The Sudan was the subject of a terrorist attack in the town of Hamrat al-Sheikh which targeted civilians and schools. Numerous citizens were killed and many key buildings were destroyed. Criminal charges were brought against the perpetrators in accordance with the Counter-Terrorism Act.

(i) The Ministry of the Interior participated in numerous conferences on terrorism at the regional and international levels.

(j) The security bodies held a large number of meetings with their counterparts in order to exchange relevant experiences and information. Sudanese counter-terrorism experts presented papers at all meetings held during the period under review.

3. Legal matters

The Minister of Justice formed a Committee to review and amend the Counter-Terrorism Act in 2002. The Committee held a number of meetings and concluded that some articles of the Counter-Terrorism Act required amendments. The consensus was that it would be preferable to submit a new draft law in 2006 rather than make amendments to the Act.

After careful study of the 12 international agreements ratified by the Sudan and of elements of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), with the assistance of experts from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna, which offers technical assistance to States in drafting and amending legislation, the Committee concluded the following:

(a) It is necessary to amend article 2, which defines acts of terrorism, by strengthening the formulation so that it is not interpreted as a violation of fundamental human rights;

(b) The law should be expanded to include procedural issues such as the power to investigate and the allocation of responsibilities for counter-terrorism;

(c) Articles should be introduced to give effect to the binding provisions contained in the international counter-terrorism instruments, such as extradition, and to provide for mechanisms for the freezing and confiscation of terrorist assets;

(d) Some articles of the Act which are not required specifically by the international instruments, namely articles relating to environmental crimes and the hijacking of river and land vehicles should be deleted;

(e) The technical terms used in the international instruments should be adhered to in order to avoid linguistic discrepancies, which impede the scope of application of the international instruments, and to facilitate international cooperation;

(f) Certain acts which are criminalized in some international agreements (11 articles) but not criminalized under the Act should be criminalized;

(g) The binding principles of the jurisdictional immunities stipulated in all the international instruments on counter-terrorism should be compiled in a single article of the Act;

(h) At present, the Ministry is taking executive measures for the enactment of the draft law through the legislative institutions concerned.

4. Economic issues (financing of terrorism)

(a) The Bank of the Sudan remains abreast of global requirements in the sphere of action to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism and

continues to provide the commercial banks operating in the Sudan with the global ban lists issued by the Security Council and the United States Department of the Treasury with the objective of terminating banking operations with banned persons and parties;

(b) The Bank of the Sudan also issued a circular on action to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism by which it first of all ordered closer scrutiny of customer accounts and notification of suspicious transactions. The circular also requested banks to scrutinize the transactions of occasional customers, in particular currency conversions and, in particular, transactions over a specified amount;

(c) The circular also indicated the need for due diligence with regard to the accounts of politicians and politically exposed persons.

The Bank of the Sudan accepted the World Bank's offer to provide technical assistance in combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, in the following areas:

(a) Strategic planning;

(b) Development of legislation in order to keep pace with global requirements;

(c) Development of monitoring systems;

(d) Training of operatives;

(e) The World Bank training programmes were utilized through the organization of a workshop for law enforcement authorities by experts from the World Bank. Two employees from the Bank of the Sudan were also sent to Egypt for training and to draw lessons from Egypt's experience in combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. A delegation that included representatives from the Bank of the Sudan, the Criminal Investigation Department, unit responsible for economic security, Customs Office and the Office of the Attorney General participated in a training for trainers workshop held in Egypt last April;

(f) With regard to the development of legislation, in June 2007 World Bank experts will be assisting in the formulation of laws and measures designed to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism in order to keep pace with global standards.

5. Conclusion

The Sudan has undertaken a broad range of activities in the sphere of counter-terrorism during the preceding period, and all authorities concerned have expended efforts in order to harmonize legislation and bring it into line with the agreements ratified by the Sudan. Efforts continue in all areas and efforts will be made to strengthen ties with regional and other organizations for the promotion of organizations working in the sphere of counter-terrorism.



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Letter dated 1 December 2006 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1612 (2005).

At its sixth meeting, on 8 November 2006, the Working Group adopted its conclusions pertaining to the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Sudan (S/2006/662).

I should be grateful if you would have this text issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean-Marc de La Sablière
Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

Annex to the letter dated 1 December 2006 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]

Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict: conclusions on parties in the armed conflict in the Sudan

At its fifth meeting, on 6 September 2006, the Working Group examined the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Sudan, introduced by the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict. The Permanent Representative of the Sudan participated in the subsequent discussion.

The main elements of the exchange of views among the Working Group were as follows:

Members of the Working Group took note of the report submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 1612 (2005), and participants in the discussion emphasized its quality;

The representative of the Sudan underlined the readiness of the Government of National Unity to cooperate, noted the complexity of the situation in the country after a long lasting civil war, informed about the Government's efforts, such as constitutional, legislative and other measures, to ensure the protection of children, and ensuring these are taken into account by the Working Group, and insisted on the need to keep discussions on children and armed conflict in the Working Group and ongoing discussions in the Security Council on the situation in the Sudan as separate issues;

The participants in the discussion expressed their concern regarding violations cited in the report, such as killing and maiming of children, their recruitment and use as soldiers by many armed forces and groups, grave sexual violence, abductions, and denial of humanitarian access, that continued in the Sudan largely unabated;

Most of the participants called for the adoption of vigorous recommendations in order to improve existing preventive and punitive measures aimed at protecting the rights of the child; end impunity; increase accountability for acts of violence against children committed by members of the military and armed groups; and accelerate the implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes for children;

The Working Group should envisage recommendations that foster cooperation between humanitarian and other international actors and the parties to the conflict, bringing concrete improvements to the situation of children on the ground, including access of services to children;

The Working Group should ensure that, in the course of implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement, the protection of children, with special attention to the girl-child, remains a priority;

Concern was expressed for the lack of humanitarian access, monitoring and assistance to children in several regions of the Sudan;

There was general support for the Secretary-General's intention to send the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict on a mission to the Sudan at an appropriate date in the near future;

Some delegations mentioned, during the discussion, that the implementation of Security Council resolution 1706 (2006) would contribute to improving the situation of children affected by armed conflict in the Sudan.

Further to this meeting, the Working Group has agreed to the following:

A letter to be copied to the Government of Southern Sudan, by the President of the Security Council to the Government of National Unity, urging it:

To take appropriate legal action against members of parties to armed conflict accused of serious violations and abuses of the rights of children, especially in Darfur,

To take necessary corrective measures throughout the military hierarchy in order to prevent the recruitment and use of child soldiers in violation of applicable international law by the Sudanese armed forces, the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army and any armed group under their control and/or aligned with them,

To take specific action to put an end to the continuous disregard of the Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict by parties to the armed conflict in the Sudan, including the Janjaweed militias, and to fight against impunity,

To take urgent action to tackle gender-based violence, including by ensuring that parties responsible for sexual and gender-based violence are rigorously investigated and prosecuted;

To invite the representative of the Sudan to provide additional information about the efforts the Government of National Unity has already undertaken in the field of legislation in order to fight against the recruitment and use of child soldiers, and about the further steps it intends to take in order to have this legislation fully implemented at all levels and by all armed groups, and to also invite the representative of the Sudan to provide additional information about the situation of children in eastern Sudan;

To request the Secretary-General for additional information on the situation of children in eastern Sudan, to be included in future horizontal notes, as appropriate, by the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict;

A letter by the Chair of the Working Group bringing to the attention of United Nations agencies and donor Governments the need to support strengthened and accelerated implementation of sustainable disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes in the Sudan, in close cooperation with the national authorities of the Sudan, non-governmental organizations and local communities, paying particular attention in this process to girls exploited by armed forces and groups;

To recommend the Secretary-General and the Security Council, when addressing issues in the Sudan, to pay increased attention to children and armed conflict, and continue to preserve and strengthen measures taken for the protection of children, including the capacity to protect girls from rape and other forms of

gender-based violence; and that the Security Council invite the Peace and Security Council of the African Union to do the same;

A letter by the Chair of the Working Group to the Secretary-General welcoming the intention of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict to visit the Sudan in the near future.



Security Council

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13 December 2006

Original: English

**Letter dated 12 December 2006 from the Chairman of the
Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

In my capacity as Chairman of the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, I have the honour to submit a report of the Working Group (see annex).

It would be appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kenzo Oshima
Chairman of the Security Council Working Group
on Peacekeeping Operations
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations



Report of the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations

1. The establishment of the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations was announced in a statement by the President of the Council on 31 January 2001 (S/PRST/2001/3) in the context of the Council's efforts to strengthen cooperation with troop-contributing countries. While not intended to replace the Council's private meetings with the troop-contributing countries, the Working Group would "address both generic peacekeeping issues relevant to the responsibilities of the Council, and technical aspects of individual peacekeeping operations, without prejudice to the competence of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations" of the General Assembly.

2. In a subsequent note issued by the President of the Security Council on 14 January 2002 (S/2002/56), the Council authorized the Working Group to convene joint meetings with troop-contributing countries as a means of promoting closer and more interactive dialogue among members of the Council, relevant troop-contributing countries, the Secretariat and other significant stakeholders, as deemed appropriate, on issues pertaining to peacekeeping operations.

3. The previous activities of the Working Group were reported to the President of the Security Council by the Chairman of the Working Group (see S/2001/546, S/2001/900, S/2001/1335 and S/2004/1040). The Working Group was engaged in such activities as examining the relationship between the Security Council, troop-contributing countries, other stakeholders and the Secretariat, and discussing issues related to specific missions and generic issues of peacekeeping, including how to deal with the increasing number of peacekeeping operations.

4. Following the guidelines mentioned above and taking into account previous activities, the Working Group, since January 2005, has directed its efforts at expanding its activities, by intensifying the interaction with troop-contributing countries and other major stakeholders, as well as with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and other United Nations organs. It has also varied the types of meetings and the subject matter considered. A chronological tabulation of those meetings, the participants and the subject matter discussed is annexed to the present report.

Meetings

5. On 11 January and 28 March 2005 the Chairman held consultations with other members of the Working Group on the conduct of its work. The Chairman presented his views on how to expand the activities of the Working Group, which were supported by the other members. The Group also discussed other in-house procedural issues.

6. Except for those two meetings, the meetings of the Working Group have been held jointly with relevant troop-contributing countries, other major stakeholders and representatives of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and other United Nations organs. The meetings are grouped into three categories — the creation of a new mission and significant modifications to mission mandates, mission operational procedures and other specifically identified issues — and are described in the paragraphs that follow. One meeting was held with the Bureau of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

(a) *Creation of a new mission and modification of mission mandates*

7. The exchange of views with troop-contributing countries, other stakeholders, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and other United Nations offices is of particular importance in the creation of a new mission or a renewal involving substantial changes to the mandate, structure or size of a mission. For example, on 22 February 2005 a meeting was held to discuss the creation of a new United Nations mission in the Sudan (later named the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS)) as an international mechanism to monitor and facilitate the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between northern and southern Sudan (see Security Council resolution 1547 (2004)). The Chairmen of the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and representatives of potential troop contributors and other stakeholders as well as resource persons from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the United Nations Development Programme, attended the meeting. The members of the Working Group held a frank exchange of views with the participants on the expected mandate of and forthcoming challenges for the mission.

8. On the subject of Darfur, the members of the Working Group met at the expert level on 16 June and 10 October 2006, inviting troop-contributing countries and other stakeholders as well as the AU to attend. At those meetings, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations provided briefings on UNMIS assistance to the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) and contingency planning for the possible replacement of AMIS by a United Nations mission, followed by a three-way discussion on these issues among the participants.

9. From late 2005 to early 2006, the Working Group held a number of meetings on the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), most of which were devoted to discussing operational difficulties faced by the Mission, as described in paragraphs 10 and 11 below. At those meetings, the Working Group also discussed with troop-contributing countries and other stakeholders the options suggested by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, which would inevitably change the mandate and composition of UNMEE in various ways. The Chairman duly communicated with the President of the Security Council to apprise the members of the Council of the views expressed on the matter by the members of the Working Group and others that had participated in the deliberations. In the meeting on 6 November 2006, the Working Group, troop-contributing countries and other stakeholders were briefed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on the situation surrounding UNMEE and exchanged their views on possible options for the future of that Mission.

(b) *Operational issues related to specific missions*

10. On 21 October 2005, the Working Group met with troop-contributing countries and other stakeholders to discuss how to deal with the restrictions imposed by the Government of Eritrea on the monitoring activities of UNMEE, including the prohibition of UNMEE helicopter and other flights over Eritrean territory. The Chairman of the Working Group made a special visit to the Mission and discussed with UNMEE officials and those representing the troop-contributing countries the situation on the ground and the difficulties facing the Mission. The Chairman also met with high-ranking members of the Governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea. Upon his return to United Nations Headquarters, the Chair briefed members of the

Working Group on his visit at a meeting held on 15 November 2005 (the mission report is annexed to S/2005/723).

11. On 18 January and 30 March 2006, the Working Group held meetings with troop-contributing countries and other stakeholders to analyse the situation on the ground and discuss the options mentioned in paragraph 9 above.

(c) *Operational issues with implications for generic issues of peacekeeping operations*

12. The Working Group has held meetings at which it has considered other specially identified issues related to a specific mission but also relevant to generic issues of peacekeeping operations. The Working Group considered the topic of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel in the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) on 6 June 2005. The Working Group invited to that meeting, in addition to the representatives of troop-contributing countries and other major stakeholders, experts working on the issue, including a representative of MONUC and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. The Working Group noted with approval that the DPKO had established a special office within MONUC for addressing the sexual exploitation and abuse issues in the country vis-à-vis MONUC personnel. Another example is the meeting of 19 August 2005 on the possibility of inter-mission cooperation by the United Nations peacekeeping missions in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The Group discussed, among other ideas, the possibility of having prearranged joint operations, such as joint air patrols and cross-border patrols. In addition to those meetings, three meetings were held in a more informal setting to discuss the transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding in Sierra Leone (25 August 2005), Burundi (9 December 2006) and Timor-Leste (29 April 2006), focusing on the feasibility and merits of installing a United Nations presence in those countries in the form of a United Nations integrated office to assist the home Government in stabilizing the transition and consolidating it into effective domestic control.

Recommendations

13. The recent expansion of United Nations peacekeeping operations has been remarkable in terms of both the number of personnel and the variety of tasks entrusted to those operations. As of September 2006, there were 77,000 military and police personnel from 110 countries deployed in 18 missions, the costs for which exceeded \$5 billion in 2005. Operations of this magnitude cannot be sustained without the strong commitment of Member States in the form of personnel and financial contributions, as well as their political support. To ensure the cooperation and support of Member States, it is necessary that they have a proper understanding of the activities of the Security Council in the field of peacekeeping, in particular with regard to the creation of a new mission and changes in the mandate of an existing mission. Transparency and accountability are important in the work of the Council. The Working Group can serve as an effective tool for the promotion of understanding among Member States, by engaging in close, interactive dialogue with troop-contributing countries and other stakeholders.

14. From this point of view, and for the purpose of making its work more meaningful and effective, the Working Group should consider the following elements:

Modalities

(a) The Working Group's main objective is to promote mutual understanding among the members of the Security Council, troop-contributing countries and other major stakeholders, and the Secretariat. This objective is best achieved if discussions are conducted in an interactive manner. The views expressed during the discussions by troop-contributing countries and other major stakeholders may add value to the discussions in the Security Council. **The Chairman should make his or her best efforts to report these views to the Council at the earliest opportunity, and if necessary in writing;**

(b) **The Working Group should attempt to hold a meeting at the time of the creation of a new mission or a renewal involving substantial changes in the mandate, structure or size of a mission, inviting troop-contributing countries and other major stakeholders to the meeting;**

(c) **The Working Group should periodically converse with the Bureau of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations** in order to maintain an appropriate level of interaction;

Agenda

(d) When a crisis that affects the safety and security of mission personnel in a United Nations peacekeeping operation arises, **the Working Group should attempt to meet and discuss the current situation on the ground with troop-contributing countries and other major stakeholders;**

(e) **The Working Group may discuss the transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding in a given country when a peacekeeping operation is expected to withdraw in the near future.** The need to address longer-term issues related to peacebuilding, e.g., rule of law, should be factored into decisions on initial mandates for peacekeeping missions.

(f) **The Working Group may address an issue that has ramifications beyond the mission in which the issue has come up.** The questions of sexual exploitation and abuse and inter-mission cooperation, which the Working Group has already taken up, require follow-up discussions;

Future Review

(g) **The Working Group should review its work continuously, taking into account the views expressed in the context of the United Nations reform.**

Annex

Chronological tabulation of the Working Group's meetings and other activities since 1 January 2005

<i>Date</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Subject matter</i>
11 January 2005	Members of Working Group only	Organization of work and other procedural issues
22 February 2005	Members of Working Group, potential troop-contributing countries and other stakeholders, Chairman of African Union, Chairman of IGAD and officials of Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNDP	Creation of a new United Nations mission in the Sudan
28 March 2005	Members of Working Group only	Organization of work and other procedural issues
6 June 2005	Members of Working Group, major troop-contributing countries and other stakeholders, Chairman of Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, Chairman of Working Group of Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and officials of Secretariat	MONUC, with special attention to the sexual exploitation and abuse issue
19 August 2005	Members of Working Group, major troop-contributing countries and other stakeholders and officials of Department of Peacekeeping Operations	Inter-mission cooperation, with special reference to Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone
21 October 2005	Members of Working Group, major troop-contributing countries and other stakeholders and officials of Department of Peacekeeping Operations	Situation in UNMEE
6-9 November 2005	Visit to Eritrea-Ethiopia Mission area by Chairman	
15 November 2005	Members of Working Group, troop-contributing countries and other stakeholders and officials of Department of Peacekeeping Operations	Briefing by Chairman on his visit to Mission area
18 January 2006	Members of Working Group, troop-contributing countries and other stakeholders and officials of Department of Peacekeeping Operations	Situation in UNMEE and options for its future

<i>Date</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Subject matter</i>
30 March 2006	Members of Working Group, troop-contributing countries and other stakeholders and officials of Department of Peacekeeping Operations	Options for future of UNMEE
30 May 2006	Members of Working Group and Bureau of Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations	Interaction between Special Committee and Security Council
7 July 2006	Members of Working Group, major troop-contributing countries and other stakeholders and officials of Department of Peacekeeping Operations	Briefing by EUFOR Commander and EU Special Representative on EU assistance to MONUC
6 November 2006	Members of Working Group only	Draft report of Working Group
6 November 2006	Members of Working Group, troop-contributing countries, and other stakeholders and officials of Department of Peacekeeping Operations	Situation in UNMEE and options for its future

Informal meetings of the Working Group

<i>Date</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Subject matter</i>
25 August 2005	Members of Working Group, major troop-contributing countries and other stakeholders, Deputy Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to United Nations, a representative of World Bank and officials of Secretariat, UNDP and other United Nations agencies	Proposed United Nations integrated office in Sierra Leone after departure of UNAMSIL
9 December 2005	Members of Working Group, major troop-contributing countries and other stakeholders and officials of Secretariat, UNDP and other United Nations agencies	Future of Burundi after withdrawal of UNOB and possibility of United Nations integrated office
28 April 2006	Members of Working Group, members of core group, Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste to United Nations, a representative of the World Bank, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, officials of Secretariat, UNDP and other United Nations agencies	Recent developments in Timor-Leste and prospects for future of the country
16 June 2006	Members of Working Group, major troop-contributing countries and other stakeholders, representative of African Union and officials of Department of Peacekeeping Operations	UNMIS assistance to AMIS and future United Nations role in Darfur
10 October 2006	Members of Working Group, major troop-contributing countries and other stakeholders, representative of African Union and officials of Department of Peacekeeping Operations	UNMIS assistance to AMIS and future United Nations role in Darfur



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Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force of 4 December 2006 (S/2006/938), and also reaffirming its resolution 1308 (2000) of 17 July 2000,

1. *Calls upon* the parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973;

2. *Welcomes* the efforts being undertaken by the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force to implement the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Security Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take preventive and disciplinary action to ensure that such acts are properly investigated and punished in cases involving their personnel;

3. *Decides* to renew the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for a period of six months, that is, until 30 June 2007;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, at the end of this period, a report on developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement resolution 338 (1973).



**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 8 December 2006 from the Secretary-General
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to refer to my report of 29 September 2006 (S/2006/783) on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS), in which I indicated my intention to propose a revision of the mandate of UNOGBIS and request its extension until 31 December 2007.

During 2006, UNOGBIS continued to contribute to Guinea-Bissau's stabilization and reconciliation efforts. While encouraging progress has been achieved, especially in the establishment of a framework for security sector reform, much more remains to be done to consolidate and sustain the momentum for democratic governance in order to prevent a relapse into conflict. Recent developments have highlighted the continued volatility of the situation, as the major opposition parties have intensified pressure on President Vieira to dismiss the Government appointed just over a year ago, in October 2005.

The convening of the Donor Round Table on Guinea-Bissau, held in Geneva from 7 to 8 November 2006, confirmed the international community's continued readiness to be supportive of the country's reconstruction efforts in a climate of peace and stability. A Secretariat assessment mission to Guinea-Bissau in May 2006 concluded that a United Nations political presence in that country remained vital in order to contribute to stabilization, without which the full resumption of development cooperation and economic investment, essential for sustainable peace and progress, cannot be guaranteed.

On 8 November 2006, Prime Minister Aristides Gomes wrote to inform me that the situation in his country remains extremely fragile, especially given that the Government's enormous resource constraints hampered its ability to meet its statutory responsibilities in a timely fashion. The Prime Minister, therefore, requested emergency financial assistance from the United Nations Peacebuilding and Democracy Funds to fill the budget gaps for 2006 and 2007. His request further demonstrates the continuing necessity for international engagement with Guinea-Bissau as it strives to consolidate peace and enhance prospects for development.

President Vieira and other senior members of his Government have, in recent meetings with my new Representative in Guinea-Bissau, Shola Omoregie, expressed the same concerns conveyed to me by the Prime Minister and reiterated the country's desire for enhanced international cooperation, in particular with UNOGBIS, to promote peace and progress in the country.



In the light of the above, I recommend that the mandate of UNOGBIS be extended for one year, until 31 December 2007, to allow the Office to continue assisting Guinea-Bissau as it pursues its difficult peacebuilding process. The proposed extension would allow UNOGBIS to operate under a streamlined mandate highlighting mediation and good offices functions aimed at promoting dialogue and reconciliation in order to reduce current divisive and polarizing pressures hampering the restoration of normalcy.

Accordingly, the activities of UNOGBIS would focus on: (a) supporting national reconciliation and dialogue; (b) assisting with security sector reforms; (c) promoting respect for the rule of law and human rights; (d) mainstreaming a gender perspective into peacebuilding, in line with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000); (e) promoting the peaceful settlement of disputes; (f) helping mobilize international assistance reconstruction efforts; (g) facilitating efforts to curb proliferation of small arms and light weapons; and (h) enhancing cooperation with the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, the European Union and other international partners.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. Annan



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Letter dated 13 December 2006 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 8 December 2006 (S/2006/974) concerning your recommendation that the mandate of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau be extended to 31 December 2007 has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the information and proposal contained in your letter.

(Signed) Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser
President of the Security Council

